Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 2, line 10**, with the following amended paragraph:

One aspect of the operation of the router 11 is that it allows for network managers to access control features of the router. Typically, the CPU 24 will be programmed to allow a network ~~manger~~ manager to change operations of the router. For example, a network manager might modify routing tables of the router, block certain ports from traffic from hosts having different IP addresses, set up new subnets or change subnets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 4, line 28**, with the following amended paragraph:

As discussed above, one aspect of the operation of the router 101 is that it allows for network managers to access control features of the router. Typically, the CPU 116 will be programmed to allow a network ~~manger~~ manager to change operations of the router. For example, a network manager might modify routing tables of the router, block certain ports from traffic from hosts having certain IP addresses, set up new subnets or change subnets. As discussed above, in order to gain access to, and send instructions to a CPU for the management of the router 101, typically one of a number of different management communication protocols are used. These protocols can include Telnet, SSH, Web management, SNMP, and TFTP etc.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 2, line 26**, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows layer 2 subnets 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 connected to ports 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 of the router 11. The layer 2 subnets would typically include a number of layer 2 switches networked together, and hosts, such as personal computers or other devices would be connected to the switches. A host having proper authorization such as proper passwords, or having been previously identified by their source IP address, and generating data packets in accordance with the management communication protocol utilized by the system would be able to gain access to the management functions of the CPU 24 of the router 11 through the any of the ports 12-22 of the router 11. The CPU 24 is responsible for receiving the data packets from hosts of the layer 2 subnet ~~which~~ that are directed to [[the]] obtaining access to the management functions of the CPU 24. If the CPU 24 determines that the host attempting to obtain access to the management functions[[,]] is not authorized for such access, for example, the host could be a hacker attempting to attack the router 11, then the CPU 24 will drop the data packets from the attacking host, and additional protective measures could also be taken.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 7, line 15**, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown by the above discussion in order for a host to gain access to the management control functions of the CPU 116, the host must generate and transmit management data packets, where such packets are ones which are directed to an IP address which corresponds to the gateway IP address for the management port, and where such packets are [[in]] originate from a management VLAN.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 9, line 30**, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 shows a method 300 of an embodiment of the invention. At 302 a management port is defined. This can include creating a management virtual local area network as described above. A management subnet is defined at 304. The management subnet can be part of the management VLAN as described above. Additionally, management VLAN planes can be defined in layer 2 switches of other subnets of the system, as describe above. In operation of the system, data packets are received on ports of the router at 306. The received data packets are then analyzed 308 to determine if they include a destination IP address which correspond to the management address. If the received data packet does not have a destination IP address which corresponds to the management address then the data packet will be passed 312 [[to]] according to the destination IP address in the data packet. If the received data packet has a destination IP address which corresponds to the management address, then the received data packet is analyzed 310 to determine if it was received from the management subnet. If it was received from the management subnet then the data packet can be passed 314 to the CPU. If the data packet was not received ~~on the management port 316~~ from the management subnet, then the data packet is analyzed 316 to determine if it utilizes a management protocol. If it is in a management protocol, then the data packet is dropped 318. If the data packet is not in a management data protocol, then the data packet is passed 320.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **page 4, line 6**, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows a system 100 of an embodiment of the present invention. The router 101 operates to provide layer 3 routing of data packets between different hosts on the system. For example, the router 101 can route data packets received on a port of the router 101 to other ports of the router based on a destination source IP address contained in a received data packet. Typically a router will contain a large number of ports to which different ~~level~~ layer 2 subnets are connected.

In figure 2 six ports 102, 106, 108, 110, 112 and 114 are shown, but in many embodiments the router would include additional ports.